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1- 3. (CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for reducing damage caused to a circular saw blade on a delimbing machine, comprising:

- < a stationary saw head compartment of a delimbing machine, the saw head
- < compartment having an access door that pivots about a vertical pivot axis between an
- < open position swinging outwardly away from the saw head compartment and a closed
- < position, the access door having an inside surface;

- < a circular saw blade rotatably supported within the saw head
- < compartment, the circular saw blade having a first face and a second face, the circular
- < saw blade being vertically movable relative to the saw head compartment and the
- < access door between a lowered cutting position and a raised retracted position in which
- < the saw blade is substantially retracted within the saw head compartment with only a
- < lower circumferential peripheral edge of the circular saw blade extending below the
- < access door of the saw head compartment;

- < at least one contact member mounted to the inside surface of the access
- < door of the saw head compartment, the at least one contact member protruding a pre-
- < set distance from the inside surface of the access door in both the open position and
- < the closed position, the at least one contact member being positioned immediately
- < adjacent to and spaced laterally from the first face of the circular saw blade and radially
- < inwardly [from] at the lower circumferential peripheral edge of the circular saw blade
- < when in a retracted position within the saw head compartment, such that lateral
- < movement of the lower circumferential peripheral edge of the circular saw blade is
- < confined by the at least one contact member engaging a first face of the circular saw
- < blade along the lower circumferential peripheral edge.

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5. (CANCELED)

6. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein there is more than one contact member.

7. (CANCELED)